

Manufacturing Innovation Fund Advisory Board

September Meeting Minutes

Department of Economic and Community Development

September 21, 2017

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM

450 Columbus Boulevard, Conference Room A Second Floor
Hartford, Connecticut

Attendance

- Board Members Present: John Harrity, John Zoldy, Don Balducci, Kelli Vallieres, Beverlee Dacey, Shane Eddy, Emir Redzic and Catherine Smith,
- Board Members via phone: Chris DiPentima, Todd Pihl, Colin Cooper
- Quorum: Yes
- Stakeholders Present: Bernice Zampano, Tom Maloney, Eric Brown and Wayne Suple and Todd Berch, Ken Poole
- DECD Staff: Barbara Fernandez, Carmen Molina-Rios and Toni Karnes

Minutes

Meeting called to order by Chair Commissioner Catherine H. Smith at 9:04 am.

Commissioner Smith welcomed the board to the meeting. The Commissioner asked for a motion to accept the August Minutes. John Harrity made the motion and Don Balducci seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Regional Aerospace Defense Exchange (RADE) 2

Carmen Molina-Rios provided an overview of the RADE components and their focus. She noted that there were six New England states involved and leveraging their resources was important to OEA. She also advised the group that Draper, CCAT, Belcan and CREC were also participants.

CREC

Ken Poole provided an overview of what was working nationally. He reviewed the core activities as well as the CREC deliverables. Beverlee Dacey questioned as to whether the Board could get access to the full budget for RADE 2. Carmen Molina-Rios stated that she would provide. Mr. Poole also reviewed the Project model outlining tasks and activities as well as accomplishments. He noted that the key outcomes were:

1. Developing an on-going dialogue with other New England states about common issues
2. Aggregating information about the region's defense industry strengths
3. Piloting new program approaches to support:
 - a. Workforce development
 - b. Technology commercialization
 - c. Regional planning
4. Building the organizational infrastructure required for future collaboration

He discussed project results and outputs noting that:

- A Hartford summit to increase awareness about the defense industry and RADE tools was hosted

- 75 attendees
- 95% satisfaction with event
- 25% increase in RADE commons membership
- The project provided two (2) state-of-the-art pieces of equipment and on-site process improvement consulting to test new manufacturing technologies
 - 20 supply chain companies participating
 - 17 projects implemented (exceeded target of 10)
 - 1200 equipment hours used
 - Equipment ordered by some suppliers
 - 6 new processes implemented by suppliers in their facility

Finally, Mr. Poole provided an overview the areas in which the project can move forward. After some discussion, Commissioner Smith noted that the board would be having conversations regarding cyber security moving forward and building a regional response to the issue may be a good approach.

Innovation Technology Center

Wayne Sumple from CCAT provided an overview of the current technology projects added to the toolbox at CCAT and the new equipment purchased. After some discussion he noted that 19 companies participated and the types of projects included 3D and X-Ray scanning of parts.

Draper Labs

Frank Serna reviewed the Draper Labs RADE II, Task 5 Report. He stated that Draper worked with individual suppliers to improve manufacturing quality. He provided metrics on the number of companies that participated and the number of projects implemented. Mr. Serna noted that the projects ranged from equipment recommendations and modifications to measurement system analysis. After some discussion, Mr. Serna continued by making key recommendations for strengthening the competitiveness of the Connecticut Aerospace and Defense industry. He closed by stating that overall, the A&D sector in Connecticut is growing and strategically the sector needs to focus on such trends as:

- Increasing workforce interest in manufacturing
- Anticipate technology trends more aggressively
- Cyber Security training and workforce clearances

Commissioner Smith noted that the plan would be to take the current savings on RADE 2 to use for cyber security awareness and assessment program with regional availability.

Other Business

Commissioner Smith reviewed with the group an overview of the Actual Funding to Companies as of June 8th, 2017. Beverlee Dacey noted that given the state budget situation, the Board needed to be discerning as to how the balance of current funding was handled. After some discussion, Ms. Dacey asked for a breakdown of how many non-aerospace companies had received MIF funding assistance. John Harrity then asked if the CT Green Bank was tracking their return on investment. Commissioner Smith responded that she will ask them to track that information.

After additional discussion, Commissioner Smith asked for a motion to adjourn. John Harrity moved the motion. John Zoldy seconded. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 10:35.